

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

*The “Message from the Chair” is a reflection of the personal opinions and experiences of the Board Chair. Comments in the article may be shared by various members of the Board, but they are not to be interpreted as a policy, position, or consensus of the Board unless specifically so indicated.*

**From Ying Fay Chan, P.E., S.E.**

In the Fall 2005 Journal, I reported two on-going NCEES events/processes; the possible establishment of a National Structural III exam and the proposed change of educational requirements for professional licensure. At this time I do not have anything further to report except that they are still ongoing. I am hopeful that there will be some definitive outcome from the upcoming NCEES Annual meeting in September.

## **BOARD ACTIVITIES/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I would like to say to our constituents that through the persistent effort of your Board and the diligent work of the Board Staff, the rules for Continuing Professional Development for the Professional Land Surveyors and the Continuing Education requirements for On-Site Designers and Inspectors have made great progress and are now being finalized. The new CPD rules for land surveying will be codified in chapter 196-16 WAC. The CE rules for Onsite will appear in a new chapter 196-34 WAC. In both cases the scheduled effective date is July 1, 2006. It will be a year later, July 1, 2007, when the Board will commence random audits of compliance with these rules.

With the filling of vacant positions of staff investigators and streamlining of the administrative process in handling complaints, I now can report to you that marked improvements have been achieved in the investigative and complaint caseloads. As time goes by, with gains in experience and operational efficiency, further improvements are sure to come.

## **BOARD SERVICE**

Since I was appointed to the Board almost six years ago, I have seen significant changes in the composition of the Board. From when I was first appointed, four of the six members have completed their terms and left the Board. Yet their legacies and accomplishments remain manifested in the current Board's operation. It is no surprise that as the Board renews itself with new members each giving unique professional background and life experiences, the character and to some extent the way how it functions will continue to evolve. That is largely because the core duty of the Board remains a constant - to protect the public's health, safety and welfare. From

my perspective what I really want to say is that it is an honor and privilege to serve as a Board member and I would like to take this opportunity to appeal to my fellow practitioners who are licensed in structural engineering to consider applying to the Governor's office for an appointment to fill the position to be vacated by Ms. Nancy Miller Duevel as she completes her 2<sup>nd</sup> term in July of this year.

## **NCEES “ FINISH IT “ CAMPAIGN**

As part of a long-term plan to promote the value of licensure, the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) has launched a campaign that targets the undergraduate engineering community. Developed by Wexler Marketing Group, the campaign seeks to raise student awareness of importance of licensure. The central message “Finish it” invites students in engineering programs to complete their degree and to begin the licensing process by taking the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) exam. NCEES Manager of Meetings and Marketing Communications, Nina Norris says, “Because of the effort it takes to pass the FE exam, the students need to be convinced that it is a worthwhile investment of their time.” The “Finish it” campaign communicates just that. It gives them a number of reasons to work toward passing the exam, and it does so in a way that is really attractive to their age group. Norris who also coordinates the campaign has already received positive feedback from many engineering students who are drawn to the bright colors as well as to the message of the campaign materials.

The campaign includes print advertisements, giveaway items and posters that all contain the same message and imagery. NCEES Member Boards, professional societies and other organizations affiliated with the Council may request these items by contacting Nina Norris at [nnorris@ncees.org](mailto:nnorris@ncees.org).

## **GLOBALIZATION**

Finally, I would like to have a brief discussion about a different subject, that of the inevitable “ Globalization” of the Engineering/Surveying professions. This globalization phenomenon has happened in trade, manufacturing and support services. To demonstrate this point one only has to contact some product support service centers; where you will most likely get someone across the globe at the other end.

Take for example a situation near to my area of interest. The British Institutes of Civil/Structural Engineers have for years provided a path to membership and licensure on a global level through IStructE structural engineering examinations. They are also highly interested in pursuing efforts to integrate their exam process with those we use here in Washington.

On a similar note our Canadian neighbors have long expressed interest in doing the same. The APEGGA (Association of Professional Engineers, Geologist and Geophysicists of Alberta) is sponsoring an international mobility forum April 21, 2006. Two of our Board members will attend. While I am not necessarily advocating universal licensure in engineering, some form of international cooperation and recognition seem inevitable. It is in our collective best interests, whether as a professional group or as a regulatory body, to contemplate its effect and how we may take a forward- looking and proactive stand on the subject.